

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining a boost pressure setpoint in an internal combustion engine comprising an exhaust gas turbocharger having a bypass line running parallel to a turbine in an exhaust gas duct, the bypass line having a wastegate which is set via a pneumatically, hydraulically or electrically operated actuator, comprising:
  - limiting the setpoint for the boost pressure to a minimum value; and
  - determining the minimum value from the sum of environmental pressure and one or more pressure constants.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein a speed-dependent basic value is added as a pressure constant to the environmental pressure.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein, with a throttle valve deactivated and the wastegate closed, an additional pressure constant is determined and then added to the environmental pressure and the basic value.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the additional pressure constant is adaptively corrected as a function of the measured boost pressure.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the additional basic pressure constant increases the boost pressure setpoint if the measured boost pressure is lower than the sum of environmental pressure and basic value.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein a diaphragm box controlled by overpressure and underpressure is provided as an actuator for the wastegate, the diaphragm box being mechanically linked to the wastegate.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the diaphragm box is pretensioned by means of a spring into a position that closes the wastegate.